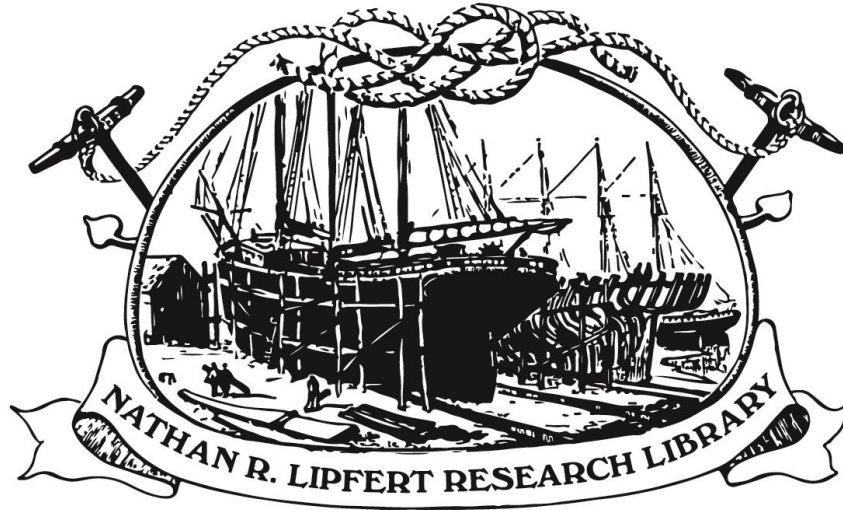


Maine Maritime Museum Library
243 Washington Street
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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 673**

Frank E. Claes Research Papers

Circa 1960 – circa 1990

by
Elisabeth Meier
June 2019

0.9 linear feet
Accession no. 98.87

*****Shelved in the Reading Room*****

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Abstract

Frank E. Claes (1910-2000)

Research Papers, c. 1960-c. 1990

0.9 linear feet

Photographer in Camden, Maine

Contains four binders of information on hundreds of Maine-built ships, compiled by Frank E. Claes, as well as research notes and catalogs of Claes's photograph collection. The binders contain notes on builders, captains, owners, dimensions, and the careers of each vessel. Much of Claes's photo collection is also at Maine Maritime Museum, but has been filed in PC-3. Note: the binders have been shelved with reference materials in the Reading Room.

In English.

Museum purchase.

MS-673. Accession #98.87.

Finding aid (folder level control) available in repository and online.

Preferred citation: Frank E. Claes Research Papers (MS-673). Maine Maritime Museum.

Added entries—persons:

Claes, Frank E. (1910-2000)

Added entries—key terms:

Schooners

Ship captains

Ships

Shipyards – Maine

Acquisition

This collection was purchased at an auction of Frank E. Claes's estate by Maine Maritime Museum in 1998.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection. There may be restrictions on associated photographs.

Physical Condition

The material is in good condition as of 2019. However, binders and binder sleeves are not archival quality and should be monitored.

Processing Notes

Because the binders of vessel information are primarily valuable as reference material, it has been shelved in the reading room. The remainder is in sequence with the manuscript collection.

This material was originally filed with Claes's photographs, negatives, and business ephemera as a photo collection, PC-143. However, because many of the photographs were copies from other collections, many made without permission from the owner of the photograph,

intellectual property rights to the material remain unclear. Therefore, the museum made the decision to file Claes's photographs in the photographic reference collection, PC-3. Claes's written reference material was then moved to this manuscript collection.

Related Materials

Claes's extensive photograph collection has been interfiled in PC-3. Most images are in Series V, Vessels, and are organized alphabetically by vessel name. They can be identified by Claes's stamp on the back and by the accession number, 98.87. The negatives are filed in the Museum's negative series, numbered from 53808 through 55012. Claes's business ephemera is still shelved as PC-143.

Historical Note

Frank E. Claes (1910-2000) was a photographer who was deeply interested in Maine's maritime history. He opened a photography studio in Camden, Maine, in 1950, and specialized in reproducing historic photographs. Copies of many of these ended up in his encyclopedic collection of photographs and negatives of Maine-built vessels. By the 1960s, Claes was selling reproductions of photos in his collection via mail order for \$2.50 apiece.

In addition to collecting photographs, Claes wrote or co-authored several books on local history, including *Waldo County: the Way it Was*, *Maine Coast Portraits*, and *Picture-Tour of Camden, Maine: Where the Mountains Meet the Sea*, as well as historical articles for *Down East* magazine. He also kept extensive research notes on Maine-built vessels and acquired related ephemera and manuscript material.

Claes married Dorothy R. Aylward in 1954. After his retirement, he lived in Orland, Bangor, and Bucksport, Maine.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains information that Claes compiled on Maine-built vessels, along with copies of his catalog of reproduction photographs for sale and some drafts and notes.

The vessel notes, bound in binders, contain information on approximately 840 Maine-built sailing vessels. They include notes on the vessels' dimensions, registration, owners, masters, builders, and incidents in their career. Claes's source material is not usually noted, though he clearly relied on reference sources like the *List of Merchant Vessels of the United States*. Information on vessels is organized alphabetically by vessel name.

There are also three versions of a catalog of photographs for sale, titled "Listing of Sailing Ships," which also give some brief information on Claes's business. Handwritten lists of photographs, a couple of collected articles, and drafts and research notes supporting the vessel binders make up the remainder of the collection.

Contents

Bound Vessel Information (shelved with reading room reference materials)

Volume I: A – Edgar

Volume II: Edna – H

Volume III: I – Mary E. Palmer

Volume IV: Mary F. Barrett – Z

Papers (shelved in sequence with manuscript collections)

Photograph catalogs

Lists of photographs

Miscellaneous research material

Notes and drafts